national Settlement in Shanghai, and bombed Singapore and centers in the Philippines.

The early effect of the Japanese attack upon the United States, the British Empire, and the Netherlands Indies was to render the position of China more rather than less perilous. The British were fighting in Europe with their backs to the wall and could not even successfully defend their own possessions in the Far East. Clearly they had little or no resources to spare for China. Moreover, the Chinese leaders had not forgotten that Great Britain had led in forcing open the doors of their country in the preceding century and had been the leader and to them the symbol of the Western imperialism which surging nationalism had led them, especially since 1911, to struggle to throw off. The huge resources of the United States could not be immediately mobilized and made effective in prosecuting the war. For the United States, too, the winning of the fight against Germany and Italy was given priority over the Pacific. In the Pacific distances were vast and Japan had the advantage of the command of most of the littoral of the east coast of Asia. Japan, prepared for some such eventuality as it precipitated in December, 1941, promptly followed up the advantage acquired by its initial moves. On Christmas Day, 1941, Hongkong capitulated and thus another important hole in the cordon which was being tightened around China was stopped. Before the middle of the summer of 1942 Japan had taken the Philippines and Guam, thus cutting off American outposts in the Western Pacific, had captured Singapore, had overwhelmed the Dutch power in the East Indies, and had expelled the British rule

from Burma. By the conquest of Burma Japan closed ingress to "free" China by the Burma Road, thereby locking another of the few remaining doors of communication between the fighting Chinese and their friends in the outer world. Japan had all but succeeded in expelling the Westerner from China. Of the Occidental enclaves of a few years earlier, only Portuguese Macao remained, and that on sufferance.

"Free" China showed the effects of the long strain. On the land front a stalemate seemed to have set in. From 1940 to the middle of 1944 the Japanese made few important gains in the interior, but the Chinese could not muster enough power to expel them from positions already acquired. Inflation appeared, both in